

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9668

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CH UR JA

SUBJ: SOVIETS DENOUNCE JAPAN-CHINA TREATY

1. SUMMARY. IN TWO MAJOR COMMENTARIES, THE SOVIETS HAVE BLASTED THE PROSPECTIVE JAPAN-CHINA TREATY, ESPECIALLY THE "HEGEMONY" CLAUSE, AS SERVING PEKING'S GREAT-POWER ANTI-SOVIET INTERESTS. THE CHINESE ARE THE MAIN TARGET OF MOSCOW'S IRE, WHILE THE JAPANESE GET OFF FAIRLY LIGHTLY, AND SOME JAPANESE ARE CREDITED WITH SEEING THROUGH THIS PEKING PTWT. THE TIMING AND TONE OF THE ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW EXPECTS THE TREATY TO BE SIGNED SOON, BUT STILL HOPES THAT THE OFFENDING LANGUAGE WILL BE AVOIDED. END SUMMARY.

2. IZVESTIYA (APRIL 24) AND PRAVDA (APRIL 25) CARRY COMMENTARIES BY OBSERVERS KUDRYAVTSEV AND LATYSHEV CRITICIZING IN HARSH TERMS THE PROSPECTIVE JAPAN-CHINA TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.

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THE COMMENTARIES CHARGE THAT PEKING SEES THE TREATY AS A DEVICE

FOR STRENGTHENING ITS ANTI-SOVIET STAND AND FEEDING ITS OWN GREAT POWER AMBITIONS. THE COMMENTATORS FIND THE "HEGEMONY" CLAUSE PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE IN ITS REFERENCE TO "THIRD POWERS." THEY CITE PURPORTED REMARKS BY CHOU EN-LAI AND TENG HSIAO-PING TO JAPANESE VISITORS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS THE INTENDED TARGET OF SUCH LANGUAGE. IZVESTIYA STATES THAT MOST OF THE USSR'S TERRITORY LIES IN ASIA SO IT HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS THERE. BUT IT HAS NO HEGEMONISTIC AMBITIONS, SAYS IZVESTIYA, AND THIS PEKING PLOY IS MERELY AN ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL ITS OWN AMBITIONS AND TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE JAPANESE.

3. BUT JAPANESE OBSERVERS AND OFFICIALS REALIZE THIS DANGER, SAY BOTH COMMENTATORS. PRAVDA CITES "ASAHI" REPORTEDLY WARNING THAT THE HEGEMONY LANGUAGE COULD BE READ TO IMPLY A MILITARY ALLIANCE AND NOTES GOJ AND LDP OPPOSITION TO THE TERMINOLOGY. IZVESTIYA REPLAYS COMMENTS FROM TOKYO SHIMBUN AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA OPPOSING REFERENCES TO "HEGEMONY." HOWEVER, SOME OTHER JAPANESE (PRAVDA MENTIONS TAKEIRI OF KOMETO) ARE TRYING TO CURRY FAVOR WITH PEKING BY DOWNPLAYING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ISSUE, SAYS PRAVDA.

4. COMMENT: AS USUAL, PEKING IS THE MAIN TARGET OF THIS SOVIET BLAST. THE POINT OF THESE ARTICLES IS TO ENCOURAGE THE JAPANESE IN THEIR RESOLVE TO RESIST THE HEGEMONY LANGUAGE. THE SOVIET, HOWEVER, SEEM TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF THE TREATY IN THE NEAR TERM.

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